

Virginia Emergency Operations Center (VEOC)

Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM)

JUNE 08 WILDFIRES SITUATION REPORT # 3 16 June 2008, 1600 Hours

New Information in Bold Italic Type

SUMMARY

There are currently four wildfires in VA. Poor Mountain Fire in Montgomery County was threatening multiple communication tower sites on 12 June; Great Dismal Swamp Wildlife Refuge Fire in cities of Suffolk and Chesapeake; Richardson Knob Fire in Warren and Shenandoah Counties; North Mountain in Botetourt County. ***The concern at this time is the possibility of new wildfires appearing over the next several days due to lightning strikes. VA Department of Forestry and US Forest Service are coordinating to conduct aerial observations flights later this week.***

EXECUTIVE ACTION

EOC Activation: The Virginia Emergency Operations Center is at Routine Operations with normal staffing. Planning Section is active providing a coordinated Commonwealth picture of the situation. Incident Management Cadre is on alert.

WEATHER FORECAST

Monday, 16 June: Severe Thunderstorm Watch in effect until 2100 hrs Monday, 16 June, for Northwest, Northern and areas of West Central and Central VA. Dense Smoke Advisory in effect until 2000 hrs Monday, 16 June, for Norfolk, Portsmouth, Chesapeake and Virginia Beach. Partly to mostly cloudy; chance of showers and thunderstorms developing in the afternoon and evening; some could be severe with damaging winds and large hail; daytime highs mid 80's to mid 90's with overnight lows low to mid 60's; winds 5-10 MPH.

Tuesday, 17 June: Partly to mostly cloudy; 20% chance of showers and thunderstorms developing in the afternoon and evening across Southeast VA; daytime highs mid 70's to mid 80's with overnight lows low 50's to low 60's; winds 10-20 MPH.

OPERATIONS SECTION

ESF 4 – Firefighting: VA Department of Forestry (VDOF) reports that the Poor Mountain Wildfire in Montgomery County has burned approximately 250 acres and is projected to burn approximately 890 acres after burning operations are completed. VDOF reports approximately **40** personnel to include local fire department handling fire suppression operations. Lightning is the probable cause of the fire. ***The fire is 100% contained with 100% control projected by Tuesday, 17 June. Rain on 14 June aided fire suppression on the low intensity fire and it also increased the safety factor and impacted installation of containment lines and burn out operations. Burn out operations scheduled for 14 June rescheduled to 15 June due to weather. Burn out operations have yet to be conducted and are on hold depending on the weather.***

US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) reports the South 1 Fire, Great Dismal Swamp Wildlife Refuge in Suffolk and Chesapeake, Virginia, along the VA/NC border, is estimated to have burned 2,400 acres. A piece of construction equipment that caught fire is the probable cause of the fire. Area communities are affected by smoke, but no homes are in danger at this time. The fire is being managed by a Southern Area Type 2 Incident Management Team. ***The fire is 24% contained and 1 July is the projected date for containment.*** There are about **264 personnel** on site ***to include 6 from the VA Department of Forestry*** along with personnel and resources from Nature Conservancy, National Park Service, US Forest Service, ***Bureau of***

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Indian Affairs, VA Department of Emergency Management, NC Department of Forest Resources, City of Chesapeake Fire Department and City of Suffolk Fire Department. *Ground resources are being supported by 4 helicopters and 9 bulldozers.* A temporary flight restriction is in place up to 3,000 feet above the fire.

US Forest Service (USFS) reports the Hot Fire, Richardson Knob, George Washington and Jefferson National Forest in Warren and Shenandoah Counties is located on the northern end of Massanutten Mountain in rough, steep, rocky terrain and difficult to access which hampered containment efforts. The fire is estimated to have burned 200 acres ***and is 100% contained; however no control date has been projected. Recent rains have assisted ground firefighting operations and fire is currently exhibiting light fire behavior. Currently, there are approximately 80 personnel on site with crews to begin demobilizing on 17 June. The VA Department of Forestry dozer and operator demobilized on 15 June.*** Lightning is the probable cause of the fire.

US Forest Service (USFS) reported a 10 acre fire burning on North Mountain in Botetourt County on 14 June. USFS is managing the fire and has named it the Landfill Fire and indicated it was probably caused by a lightning strike. ***USFS reported actual area burned is 4 acres in George Washington and Jefferson National Forest. Fire is located in steep, rough terrain and recent rains have caused the fire to exhibit light fire behavior. Fire has not been marked contained and is being monitored by 10 person USFS crew.***

ESF 5 – Emergency Management: VDEM has created an event in WebEOC “2008-06 Wildfires”, and the Incident Management Cadre has been alerted. VEOC is monitoring WebEOC, maintaining situational awareness and monitoring and coordinating request for wildfire assistance with VA Department of Forestry and prepared to assist.

ESF 7 – Resource Support: VDEM fulfilled request from Montgomery County Emergency Management for Local Support Services Trailer housed in VDEM Region 6 deployed to serve as Incident Command Post through Tuesday, 17 June. VDEM Region 6 Coordinator delivered and set the trailer up for operations on 13 June.

VDEM fulfilled request from US Department of Interior through Suffolk Emergency Management on 15 June for deployment of Sprint ERT for communications and cellular telephone support. Sprint ERT arrived on scene 0015 hours, 16 June.

VDEM working request from US Department of Interior through Suffolk Emergency Management on 16 June for deployment of Sprint IP Trailer for data support.

Local Support Services: VDEM Region 6 Coordinator deployed the Local Support Services Trailer housed in Region 6 to Montgomery County.

PLANNING SECTION

Situation/Documentation Unit: Monitoring situation and issuing situation reports. ***Next Situation Report will be issued Wednesday, 18 June 2008.***

LOCAL ACTIVITIES

Montgomery County declared a local emergency on 12 June at approximately 1050 hrs and has established the Incident Command Post at Eastern Montgomery High School in the Elliston section of the county.

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